

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7469

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S E C R E T TANANARIVE 1313

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NASA MA US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION CLOSURE: DEPARTURE OF EMPLOYEES AND
DEPENDENTS

REF: A. STATE 173979; B. TANANARIVE 1314

1. AN ADDITIONAL 24 BENDIX EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS WILL
LEAVE BY JULY 29 ACCORDING TO PRESENT SCHEDULE. THIS WILL
LEAVE 18 BENDIX EMPLOYEES, 12 DEPENDENTS, PLUS SATION
DIRECTOR AND 5 DEPENDENTS AS OF THAT DATE UNLESS DEPARTURES
ARE EXPEDITED. DETAILS ON DEPARTURES IN REFTEL B.
2. ALL EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS INCLUDING STATION DIRECTOR
AND FAMILY ARE DOCUMENTED TO LEAVE MADAGASCAR. THIS HAS JUST
BEEN COMPLETED JULY 24. NOT ALL ARE DOCUMENTED FOR RETURN TO
US, BUT THIS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED AT OTHER POSTS. NOT
ALL EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS REQUIRED EXIT VISAS (STATION
DIRECTOR, FOR EXAMPLE) SINCE THEY ALREADY HAD THEM.
3. SOME EMPLOYEES OR DEPENDENTS WHO HAVE NOT LEFT ARE TIED
UP WITH PERSONAL PROBLEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE DEPENDENT WIFE
IS MEDICALLY UNABLE TO TRAVEL AND ANOTHER DEPENDENT MARRIED
HERE JULY 23. SEVERAL HAVE CANCELLED THEIR DEPARTURE IN
LAST MINUTE.
4. REMAINING 36 NASA/BENDIX EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS SHOULD

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BE ABLE TO LEAVE MADAGASCAR QUICKLY BY USING VARIETY OF

FLIGHTS (REFTEL B) AS LONG AS THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT
WHATEVER ROUTING AVAILABLE. IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT SUFFIC-
IENT SEATS WILL BE AVAILABLE, BUT ALITALIA REPRESENTATIVE LAST
WEEK OFFERED TO BUMP OTHER PASSENGERS IF NECESSARY.

5. GOMR MUST BE AWARE THAT ALL NASA/BENDIX EMPLOYEES ARE
DOCUMENTED FOR DEPARTURE BUT WOULD NOT BE CERTAIN THAT THEY
WERE IN FACT ALL LEAVING UNTIL TOTAL DEPARTURE ACTUALLY
UNDERWAY. IN VIEW OF EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANY
EXECUTIVES HERE, WHOSE DEPARTURE FROM ISLAND WAS BLOCKED FOR
SEVERAL MONTHS WHILE GOMR INVESTIGATION OF THEIR COMPANIES
UNDERWAY, INTERFERENCE WITH DEPARTURE IS POSSIBLE. MOST
VISIBLE AND VULNERABLE IN THIS RESPECT IS STATION DIRECTOR
DESPITE FACT HE IS USG EMPLOYEE. ALTHOUGH STATION DIRECTOR'S
DEPARTURE WOULD PROBABLY UNDERLINE TOTAL DEPARTURE, IT WOULD
BE MORE PRUDENT FOR HIS SAKE THAT HE NOT REPEAT NOT BE
AMONG VERY LAST TO GO.

6. EARLIEST DATE ALL COULD DEPART - IF ALITALIA WILL
DELIVER ON SEATS - IS SUNDAY JULY 27. CHARGE BELIEVES SICK
DEPENDENT COULD MAKE SHORT FLIGHT, BUT CANNOT BE CERTAIN WITH-
OUT ASKING.
ELFERS

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